

Application No.: 10/625,768
Amendment dated: August 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: April 13, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes correction to the figure identifier "Figure 1". This sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter for the method steps of claims 11. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to overcome the claim objections and to more accurately define the invention claimed. Claim 12 has been canceled. A replacement sheet drawing for figure 1 is submitted showing the correct spelling of the word "Figure".

Field et al. (US Patent No. 6,382,678) discloses a coupling assembly for use with refrigerant lines. The coupling assembly comprises of a female coupling and a male coupling. The female coupling and the male coupling are secured together with a bracket. A fastening device, such as a threaded bolt, extends through the bracket, the male coupling portion, and the female coupling portion. Each of the coupling portions has at least two passage ways. Each passage way in each coupling has an annular sealing surface. The female coupling further comprises a cutting device positioned adjacent to the sealing surface. When the fastening device is tightened, the two couplings will move towards each other and the cutting device will cut through the sealing surface.

Shurtleff (US Patent No. 3,201,148) discloses a coupling means for connecting conduits. The coupling means comprises of two fittings that are threaded together. A thin metal disc is secured at the end of each of the two fittings. When the two fittings are threaded closer together, the thin metal discs will be pierced by one of the fittings.

Abbey et al. (US Patent No. 3,202,442) discloses a coupling comprising a male coupling half and a female coupling half, each of which has an open end sealed by a rupturable diaphragm. Within male coupling half is a tubular sleeve member with a tapered end with a

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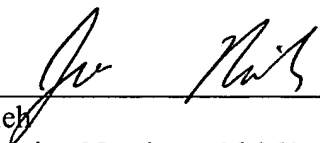
relatively narrow width rib. When the two halves are threaded closer together the rib would pierce the diaphragm.

The prior arts all have two separate couplings threaded together. Each of the separate couplings has its own separate seal. Furthermore, the prior arts require a piercing device in one of the coupling to be able to pierce the two separate seals.

Applicant's invention is a connector with frangible seal comprising a single-piece unitary tubular cylinder separated into a first section and a second section by a single frangible seal. There is no piercing device in the connector. Applicant's invention has a unitary structure much simpler than the prior arts and is unique in that it only has a single integrated frangible seal in the connector.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

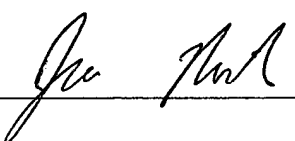


Joe Nieh
Registration Number: 46,961
18760 E. Amar Road, #204
Walnut, CA 91789
Tel: (626) 964-4227
Fax: (626) 854-5717
E-Mail: nieh@justice.com

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18760 E. Amar Road, #204
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